

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (*Currently Amended*) A method of evaluating characters in a message against a character table bank, the character table bank comprising a plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets corresponding to a plurality of languages, the method comprising the steps of:

a) accepting an input of the message, wherein the message comprises one or more characters of the plurality of languages;

b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the character table bank to determine a match between the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets and the message, wherein the step of comparing each of the characters of the message tests the ability of each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets to express ~~that character~~ each of the characters of the message by performing a logical mask between a universal code for ~~that character~~ at least one of the characters of the message and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets contains ~~that character~~ at least one of the characters of the message;

c) computing a weighted total number of characters matched to each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by applying a weighting factor to the total number of characters matched; and

d) selecting a best match between the message and the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by identifying the candidate character set corresponding to a pre-determined value for the weighted total number of characters matched.

Claims 2-7. (*Cancelled*).

8. (*Currently Amended*) A system for evaluating characters in a message against a character table bank, said character table bank including a plurality of bit masks, said character table bank indexed by a particular character, said character table bank producing one of the bit masks that identifies one or more of a plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets capable of expressing said particular character, the system comprising:

an input interface to accept an input of the message, wherein the message includes a plurality characters in one or more languages; and

a processor unit, connected to the input interface, the processor unit evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the character table bank to determine a match between the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets and the message, computing a weighted total number of characters matched to each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by applying a weighting factor to the total number of characters matched, and selecting a best match between the message and the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by identifying the candidate character set corresponding to a pre-determined value for the weighted total number of characters matched, wherein the processor unit evaluating the message tests the

ability of each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets to express ~~that character~~
at least one or more characters of the message by performing a logical operation between the bit
masks that identify one or more of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets
expressing each of the characters of the message and a value of ~~each character~~ the one or more
characters of the message.

Claims 9-14. (*Cancelled*).

15. (*Currently Amended*) A system for evaluating characters in a message against a character
table bank, said character table bank including a plurality of bit masks, said character table bank
indexed by a particular character, said character table bank producing one of the bit masks that
identifies one or more of a plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets capable of
expressing said particular character, the system comprising:

input interface means to accept an input of the message, wherein the message includes a
plurality characters in one or more languages; and processor means, connected to the input
interface means, the processor means evaluating the message by individually comparing each of
the characters of the message to the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the
character table bank to determine a match between the plurality of pre determined candidate
character sets and the message, computing a weighted total number of characters matched to each
of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by applying a weighting factor to the
total number of characters matched, and selecting a best match between the message and the
plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by identifying the candidate character set

corresponding to a pre-determined value for the weighted total number of characters matched, wherein the processor ~~unit~~ means evaluating the message tests the ability of each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets to express ~~that character~~ at least one or more characters of the message by performing a logical operation between the bit masks that identify one or more of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets expressing each of the characters of the message and a value of ~~each character~~ the one or more characters of the message.

Claims 16-21. (*Cancelled*).

22. (*Currently Amended*) A storage medium for storing machine readable code, the machine readable code being executable to evaluate characters in an electronic message to a character table bank, said character table bank including a plurality of bit masks, said character table bank indexed by a particular character, said character table bank producing one of the bit masks that identifies one or more of a plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets capable of expressing said particular character, the medium comprising the steps of:

- a) accepting an input of the message, wherein the message includes a plurality of characters in one or more languages,
- b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the character table bank to determine a match between the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets and the message, wherein the evaluating the message tests the ability of each of the plurality of pre-

determined candidate character sets to express ~~that character~~ at least one or more characters of the message by performing a logical operation between the bit masks that identify one or more of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets expressing each of the characters of the message and a value of ~~each character~~ the one or more characters of the message;

c) computing a weighted total number of characters matched to each of the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by applying a weighting factor to the total number of characters matched; and

d) selecting a best match between the message and the plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by identifying the candidate character set corresponding to a pre-determined value for the weighted total number of characters matched.

Claims 23-28. (*Cancelled*)

29. (*Currently Amended*) A method of evaluating characters in a message comprising:

receiving a plurality of characters, ~~each character~~ the plurality of characters being associated with one or more languages;

providing each character in said plurality of characters to a character table bank;

receiving at least one indicator from said character table bank, wherein said character table bank receives a character as input and provides at least one indicator corresponding to a pre-determined character set in which said character as input can be rendered; and

comparing said at least one indicator for each character to determine a character set in which said plurality of characters can be rendered.

30. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 29, wherein said character table bank receives a character as input and provides a bit mask that indicates whether each of a plurality of character sets can render said character as input.

31. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 30, wherein said comparing comprises ‘ANDing’ said bit mask for each character as input together to determine which of said plurality of character sets can render said character.

32. (*Previously Presented*) A method of evaluating characters in a message against a character table bank, the character table bank including a plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets corresponding to a plurality of languages, the method comprising:

accepting an input of the message, wherein the message includes a plurality of characters associated with one or more languages;

individually comparing each of the characters of the message to said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets in the character table bank to determine a match between each of the characters of the message and one or more of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets, wherein said comparing each of the characters of the message identifies

one or more of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets capable of expressing each of the characters of the message; and

performing a logical operation among said identified pre-determined candidate character sets to determine said pre-determined candidate character sets best suited to express the message.

33. ***(Previously Presented)*** The method of claim 32, further comprising a step of computing a weighted total number of characters matched to each of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by applying a weighting factor to the total number of characters matched.

34. ***(Currently Amended)*** The method of claim 33, further comprising a step of selecting a best match between the characters of the message and said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets by identifying one or more of said plurality of pre-determined candidate character sets corresponding to a pre-determined value for the weighted total number of characters matched.